

## Stevensville Police Commission Meeting Minutes for TUESDAY, APRIL 06, 2021 9:00 AM

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jeff Motley: called the meeting to order, meeting being held to certify Mac Sosa as Police Chief.

### 2. Discussion on the Following Items

#### a. Review and Certification of Police Chief Candidate Macario "Mac" Sosa

Jeff Motley: any questions for Mac.

Sue Devlin: when do you plan on starting to work?

Mac Sosa: that was something that I was hoping to discuss with the mayor after the meeting, I know that it has been mentioned possibly by the end of April, but I was hoping possibly between the end of April and the middle of May.

Mayor Dewey: we are kind of in influx of transitioning with an exact start date with housing and his move to Montana. With accommodating all of those things we have kept the transition plan loose and flexible to accommodate a week or two difference in date ranges. End of April middle of May is our target date.

Mike Mickelson: Mr. Sosa is there any licensing requirements that you need to complete before your certified to do police work in Montana or is everything current and up to date and fulfilled that is required.

Mac Sosa: my understanding is I need to hold a Montana driver's license before I even take the position once that is done then the time starts when I accept the position and then I would have to my week of modified training at academy, any officer from out of state. I made an attempt to contact the license agency for the state because of COVID there is a lack of communication.

Mike Mickelson: okay, thank you.

Mayor Dewey: to that point, the full academy is thirteen weeks and how we understand it from POST in Helena you should only have to take a week equivalency because your equivalency should transfer from Texas so you should only have to take a weeklong equivalency and then a week long DUI course that is where we are looking at two weeks in Helena versus the full academy.

Jeff Motley: any other questions from the commission? Has everyone seen the resume?

Yes, from everyone.

Mike Mickelson: I want to compliment Mr. Sosa on his writing skills, they are quiet well done in your packet, your letter and resume and everything. Your writing skills is one of the strongest that we have seen for attempting to acquire a position with Stevensville, so, any ways kudos.

Mac Sosa: thank you.

Jeff Motley: I have a question, so you coming to take this position is it going to fill your wants and needs and desires you are coming from a major metropolitan to rural western Montana. My understanding is that you have family here, but it is going to be a big change. How do you see yourself fitting into that?

Mac Sosa: well, my law enforcement career started over thirty years ago I have seen several changes over those thirty years. When I first was hired as a police officer we were all issued revolvers nobody carries a revolver any more. One out of ten officers was carrying a shot gun know it is a standard that everyone have an automatic weapon, everyone to have an AR-15 and everyone to have a shot gun. That is just the changes that we have seen over time, now as far as how my transition will be I have been involved in community policing over the thirty years of my career and community policing has taken on very different things neighborhood oriented policing, community policing and the newest one that I have heard and I like the best is relationship policing and I believe that relationship policing is the best one because we have to build a relationship with the community members and fulfill their needs and their wants. I think when you reach out to the community and what you find is everyone has a story to tell and everybody want to be heard they just need somebody to listen to them and I am hoping to be that person, to listen to their needs and fulfill their needs and be able to bring my experience and my knowledge to the options that we have here and to build that into the officers that they want to become and hopefully help with retaining the officers that we have, I understand that has been the issue in the past so, I think my focus would be community policing, developing, mentoring the officers that are here and hopefully by the time I am ready to leave we will have somebody within the department that can step up to the plate and take this position so you want to have to do such an extensive search as you had to do this time.

Jeff Motley: this is kind of a loaded question or hard to answer question but how long to you think or feel your term as chief would be in Stevensville?

Mac Sosa: I think I still have 12-14 years left in me. I could see myself doing that being in that position for that period of time or until the citizens and the town leadership want me to stay.

Sue Devlin: you are coming from a huge metropolitan area to a small-town of 2100 people depending on what Jeff was asking how do you feel transition or are you going to be very underwowed coming from million of people to a couple of thousand.

Mac Sosa: I don't honestly think that I will when you are policing in a large metropolitan city when you are assigned to an area it is all broken down into smaller pieces, like in Houston when you are policing you are assigned to a police station and the police station is broken down into districts and each district is broken down into a beat, so when you are assigned to a beat the reality is you are assigned to a small area to fulfill the community needs of that small area. So I think that is going to transfer to this, and policing isn't just about fighting crime and putting people jail it is about solving problems. Solving problems that the community has and meeting the needs of the community, I think that is going to transition well.

Jeff Motley: Mike, any other questions or comments.

Mike Mickelson: not at present. Just a point of awareness, it seems in our community, you know communication with one person, or one family ends up, because of the smallness and the relational qualities of the community, you are usually interacting with a family, a group regardless of your interactions just to be aware of that. That is all that I would add.

Mayor Dewey: from this juncture, or I guess the most recent update that I have for the commissioners is that part of this process included the physical and psychological testing, and those pieces were completed prior to getting this meeting agendized. In addition to that he had to go under a medical screening as well for fitness and that was completed yesterday so we are like second to last depending on your certification we will take the candidate to the town council for consent of the appointment.

Jeff Motley: so I would entertain a motion depending on your desire in what Mr. Sosa is concerned.

Sue Devlin: I will make a motion to certify police chief applicant Mr. Sosa as the Stevensville Police Chief.

Jeff Motley: the motion is to certify the hiring of Mr. Sosa is there a second?

Mike Mickelson: I will second that.

Jeff Motley: okay any other questions or discussion? With that we will vote all in favor say aye.

Everyone said "aye".

Jeff Motley: that was a unanimous consent of the board to go ahead and hire Mac as the police chief.

Mayor Dewey: thank you very much.

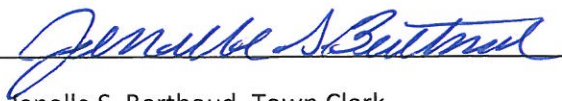
Jeff Motley: is there any other business that the commission needs to do while we are here?

Mayor Dewey: no sir, just the certification you are free to adjourn.

Jeff Motley: then I will adjourn the meeting.

### 3. Adjournment

Meeting Minutes prepared by



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk